

In addressing you, our Murray City residents and the City Council, on January 19<sup>th</sup> in my State of the City speech, I included several initiatives that I would like to focus on in 2010.

As we begin this New Year, there will be challenges. I am hopeful that we will see a rebound in our City revenues, but also realize it will be a slow and steady process. I appreciate the efforts of our great employees and the additional workload they have assumed as we wait for economic growth to return.

We continue to participate to create a City-owned fiberoptic system and have begun making monthly payments to cover the infrastructure we have in place. I am confident that over time there will be enough system users to eliminate the need to do this. Having fiber in the ground provides countless opportunities now, plus more in the future.

I am excited about the work that is being done on a vision for Downtown Murray. The preliminary plans will be rolled out soon for comments by our residents. This initiative will involve much work and support of employees, elected officials and the citizens. Creating this big Murray milestone will take blending the vision for community buildings, arts, parks, historical elements, office, retail and housing. While building out the vision may take years, continuing to move it forward is a goal I will focus on during the next four years.

Through the years we have discussed the challenges with our City Center. The building is wearing out. The facade of the building is cracking, sewer lines are leaking and it is not seismically safe. Looking to the future means making plans for dealing with these concerns. Working with the Council, I believe we can find the right formula to have a building that meets the needs of our Public Safety and other departments.

As you are aware, the former National Guard Armory maintenance facility is now owned by the City. It is my intention to pursue the feasibility of uses for the building. There is a particular need for community meeting space and that is an area I would like to explore. I believe federal funding could be used in this process.

A beautiful City has many benefits. You all know my love for well landscaped areas. I would like us to participate in the "America in Bloom" program this year. It will give opportunities for many groups in the City to work together to create and improve our community. This initiative will increase community pride, decrease graffiti and vandalism, as well as encourage economic development. Much more information will be coming soon about this program.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support as we have worked to make our City a place you can be proud to live in and call home. Good things are accomplished as we look to the great potential of our City and strive to make them happen.